

From: Tom Garlick
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 2:57pm
Subject: Concerned citizen against monopolies and unfair business practices

To Whom It May Concern,

Since the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that Microsoft is a monopoly and acted illegally to maintain that status, a settlement based on the distribution of more Microsoft software seems truly ironic.

The assumption that Microsoft software in particular benefits schools "to prepare students for the business world" is not necessarily on target. One goal of technology education at the K-12 level aims at teaching software concepts, rather than vocationally training students on particular programs. That is, the same lessons can be learned from any "office suite" or via any "web browser" or on any "operating system" to adequately prepare students.

A true "public benefit" the settlement could provide would be to give the choice to schools, not Microsoft. For example, Microsoft could provide generic resources (e.g. cash, equipment, etc.) that leave the schools free to choose their own software technology.

Thank you.

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